

# House Resolution 50 - Introduced

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H.R. \_\_\_\_\_ S.R. \_\_\_\_\_

1 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_  
1 2 BY HEDDENS, PALMER, D. TAYLOR, KUHN,  
1 3 LENSING, GASKILL, HUNTER, and KRESSIG  
1 4 A Resolution to declare the third week of October,  
1 5 2007, Disability History Week in Iowa.  
1 6 WHEREAS, on July 26, 2006, Americans celebrated the  
1 7 16th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities  
1 8 Act (ADA); and  
1 9 WHEREAS, since the ADA was enacted into law in  
1 10 1990, many changes have been made, creating a more  
1 11 accessible environment for America's approximately  
1 12 51.2 million people with disabilities; and  
1 13 WHEREAS, there are almost 400,000 persons with  
1 14 disabilities living in Iowa, according to the 2000  
1 15 United States Census; and  
1 16 WHEREAS, this number qualifies persons with  
1 17 disabilities as Iowa's largest minority group; and  
1 18 WHEREAS, Americans with disabilities face a 44  
1 19 percent unemployment rate; and  
1 20 WHEREAS, public attitudes continue to stigmatize  
1 21 people with disabilities as being less capable than  
1 22 those without disabilities; and  
1 23 WHEREAS, many people with disabilities feel that  
1 24 stigma and therefore are not comfortable talking about  
1 25 their disability; and  
1 26 WHEREAS, attitudes are formed at a young age; and  
1 27 WHEREAS, the curriculum in many Iowa schools  
1 28 includes information about the civil rights movement  
1 29 and women's rights movement, exposing students to the  
1 30 accomplishments of other minority groups; and  
2 1 WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities have  
2 2 achieved similar victories as a result of the  
2 3 disability rights movement; and  
2 4 WHEREAS, many famous people, including Ludwig Von  
2 5 Beethoven, Alexander Graham Bell, and Franklin Delano  
2 6 Roosevelt have been people with disabilities; and  
2 7 WHEREAS, students are not typically exposed to the  
2 8 disability rights movement; and  
2 9 WHEREAS, many Iowa teachers believe that their  
2 10 students should learn about the history and  
2 11 accomplishments of individuals with disabilities; and  
2 12 WHEREAS, Iowans with disabilities are eager to  
2 13 share their history and accomplishments with young  
2 14 people; and  
2 15 WHEREAS, such education will improve public  
2 16 attitudes toward individuals with disabilities for  
2 17 generations to come; NOW THEREFORE,  
2 18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
2 19 That the third week of October, 2007, be declared  
2 20 Disability History Week in Iowa; and  
2 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Iowa Department of  
2 22 Education is requested to encourage schools to conduct  
2 23 disability awareness activities during this week and  
2 24 to work with Iowa disability organizations to develop  
2 25 and disseminate a list of curriculum resources and  
2 26 presenters to assist schools in carrying out these  
2 27 activities.  
2 28 LSB 2850HH 82  
2 29 jr:rj/je/5.1